

Serial No. 09/768,466
Docket No. FF-0131 US

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REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication during a teleconference conducted on February 17, 2006 between the Examiner and Applicant's undersigned representative, that the present Application was in condition for allowance with the exception of a few minor alleged informalities. Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's helpful comments which were provided during the teleconference.

During the teleconference, the Examiner proposed amendments to claims 1, 8, 14-15, 21-22, 27-33 and 35 to address minor alleged informalities. Applicant notes that this Amendment is intended to address the Examiner's concerns raised during the teleconference.

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17 and 20-35 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 14-15, 21-22, 27-33 and 35 have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

Applicant notes that the Amendment filed on December 7, 2005, incorrectly labeled claim 34 as claim 33, which has been corrected in this Amendment.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that the present Application is in condition for allowance, with the exception of that claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17 and 20-35 may include minor alleged informalities. Applicant notes that claims 1, 8, 14-15, 21-22, 27-33 and 35 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns and, thus the Application is in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17 and 20-35, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 3/13/06



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment was filed by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Examiner Ting Zhou, Group Art Unit # 2173 at fax number 571-273-8300 this 13th day of March, 2006.



Phillip E. Miller
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